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NCREL

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory

"Applying Research and Technology to Learning"

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"Applying Research and Technology to Learning"

1900 Spring Road,
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e-mail info@ncrel.org

www.ncrel.org

**Visit our Web site and
add these resources to
your bookmarks...**

*Pathways to School
Improvement*
Internet server
[www.ncrel.org/
pathways.htm](http://www.ncrel.org/pathways.htm)

North Central Regional
Technology in Education
Consortium
www.ncrtec.org

Midwest Consortium for
Mathematics and
Science Education
[www.ncrel.org/msc/
msc.htm](http://www.ncrel.org/msc/msc.htm)

Comprehensive School
Reform Initiative
www.ncrel.org/csri/

Strategic Teaching and
Reading Project
[www.ncrel.org/strp/
Strp.htm](http://www.ncrel.org/strp/Strp.htm)

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Special Sites

Pathways to School Improvement

The *Pathways* site was created to help both teams and individual educators work toward school improvement. Topics include curriculum, instruction, and assessment (including the content areas and students "at risk"), as well as parent involvement, professional development, and educational technology. *Pathways* summarizes current research, helps schools develop goals and the strategies to reach them, and provides examples of schools that have successfully implemented plans to improve learning. Bonus features include Timely Topics (information on hot issues, such as charter schools and balanced reading instruction) and an interactive Trip Planner for school self-assessment.

www.ncrel.org/pathways.htm

North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium (NCRTEC)

Based at NCREL, NCRTEC helps K-16 educators and adult literacy programs use technology in ways that support improved and engaged learning for all students. Online resources include lessons, professional development, and The Amazing Picture Machine™.

www.ncrtec.org

Midwest Mathematics and Science Consortium (MSC)

Also based at NCREL, MSC provides direct technical assistance to state education agencies, intermediate units, districts, and schools. Their activities reflect a commitment to learning that is based on an engaged learning approach and that focuses on best practices and research to optimize learning opportunities for all students.

www.ncrel.org/msc/msc.htm

NCREL

How to Find What You Need

NCREL Home Page

The NCREL home page connects you to the very latest educational research and technology resources. Visit us soon.

www.ncrel.org

Site Map

The NCREL site map gives you a quick-reference guide to all the major topic categories within the NCREL Web site.

www.ncrel.org/info/sitemap.htm

Quick Links

In a hurry for specific information? NCREL's "Quick Links" button (located on the home page) offers shortcuts to useful online resources.

Search Button

Type in your key word(s), click the "Search" button, and receive a finely sorted summary of the NCREL Web site pages that match your selection.

About NCREL

The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping schools—and the students they serve—reach their full potential. For nearly 15 years, NCREL has provided research-based resources and professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and policymakers throughout the Midwest.

For More Information

NCREL

1900 Spring Road, Suite 300

Oak Brook, IL 60523-1480

(800) 356-2735

E-mail: info@ncrel.org

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North Central Regional Educational Laboratory

***Click Your Way to a
Wealth of Practical
School Resources:
www.ncrel.org***

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"Applying Research and Technology to Learning"

● **School and Community**

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Find out how the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program provides a gateway to resources that will help you design and manage a top-quality extended learning center. This federal, grant-based project enables schools to stay open longer (before or after school, on weekends, or during the summer), providing a safe place for extended learning. The site includes links to information on the program; national, regional, and state-specific resources; and even potential partners.

www.ncrel.org/21stcccl/

Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program

Comprehensive school reform has the power to turn a school around. Federal funding available through the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration (CSRD) Program helps schools adopt successful comprehensive reform models. NCREL's CSRD Web site offers resources—such as an online catalog of reform models and useful decision-making tools—and information for schools and districts that wish to participate in the federal program, as well as for those going through reform on their own.

www.ncrel.org/csri/

Learning Through Technology: A Planning and Implementation Guide

How do you implement educational technology as you pursue systemic school reform? Many essential technology issues are addressed for you on the Learning Through Technology Web site. More specifically, the online guide helps educators and community members develop a comprehensive learning and technology plan.

www.ncrel.org/tandl/homepg.htm

Leadership for Learning

This site has full-text versions of back issues of *New Leaders for Tomorrow's Schools* and a comprehensive, research-based checklist to help principals and other school leaders assess their practice.

www.ncrel.org/cscd/

● **Policy Evaluation and Research**

Charter Schools

NCREL's Charter Schools Web site brings together the best resources in one central location. Besides providing links to many online publications and articles, this site contains current information on charter schools, answers to frequently asked questions, an online discussion group, and state-specific information and contacts for NCREL's seven Midwest states.

www.ncrel.org/sdrs/timely/charters.htm

Educational Policy Page

The Policy Issues and Publications Web site offers the viewpoints of experts, practitioners, and policy-makers on an array of "hot" educational topics. It also features full-text versions of policy publications, including *Policy Issues* and *Policy Reports*. These publications offer a national perspective on a variety of current issues, descriptions of actions and agendas in states in the Midwest, expert commentary, and additional resources.

www.ncrel.org/policy/

● **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

Amazing Picture Machine™

Looking for pictures, maps, or other visual resources? Visit The Amazing Picture Machine™ Web site. This easy-to-use search tool helps you track down a wide range of images, from apples to zebras (and much, much more). You'll also find sample lessons and activities with creative ways to incorporate pictures into your classroom instruction.

www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm

Technology Connections for School Improvement:

Planners' Handbook and Teacher's Guide

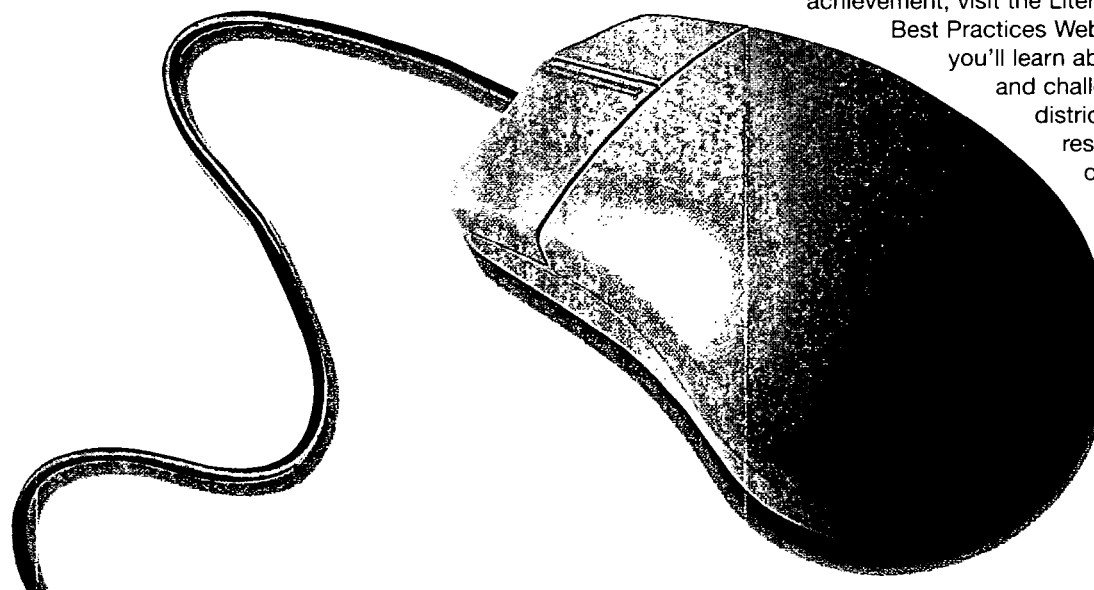
If your school or district is developing a technology plan, you'll want to check out these online planning documents. These companion resources, which provide comprehensive strategies for technology integration, include research findings, case scenarios of best practices, Internet-based resources, suggested action steps, and helpful planning tools.

www.ncrel.org/tplan/tplanB.htm

Literacy Research and Best Practices

As you seek to improve students' reading achievement, visit the Literacy Research and Best Practices Web site. On this site, you'll learn about the successes and challenges faced by states, districts, and schools with respect to literacy curriculum development, instruction, and assessment.

www.ncrel.org/litweb/



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Booklet, "Pathways to School Improvement," 2 pages

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory
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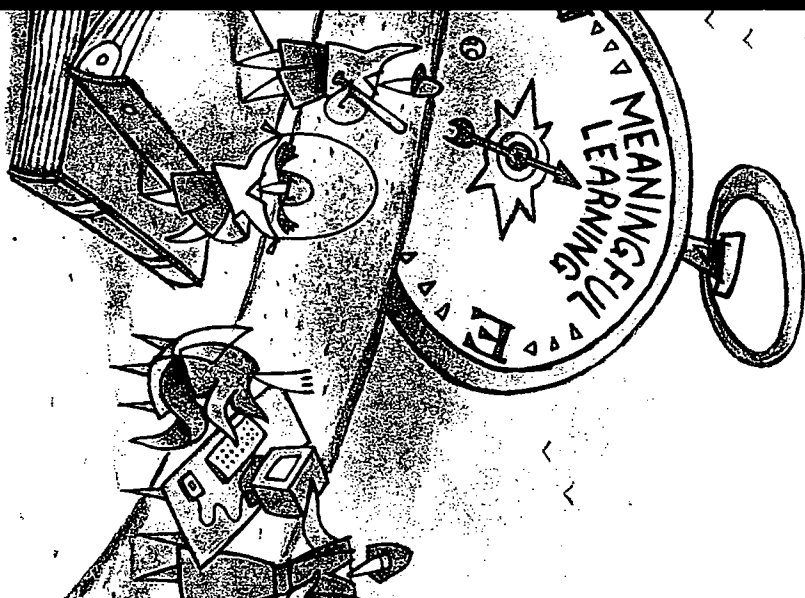
*Pathways to School
Improvement server—
It's why schools want
Internet access!*

Pathways

to School

Improvement

Internet Server



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www.ncrel.org/pathways.htm

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Pamphlet, "North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium," 2 pages

North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium



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Pamphlet, "Courageous Leadership for School Success," 2 pages



courageous leadership for school success

**Third National Summit on Best Practices for
Enhancing Student Achievement and Safety**

April 26 - 28, 2000

Ambassador West Hotel, Gold Coast Downtown Chicago



Sponsored by:

The HOPE Foundation

*(Harnessing Optimism and Potential
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Illinois Learning Partnership
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Illinois School Psychologists Association
Illinois State Board of Education
Instructional Leaders Institute
Iowa Association of School Boards
Kentucky Center for School Safety
Michigan School Boards Association
Michigan School Counselor Association
Missouri Department of Education
National Association of School Psychologists
National Educational Service
National School Boards Association
North Central Regional Educational Laboratory
Upstate Center for School Safety, New York Department of Education
Virginia Department of Education
Wisconsin Association of School Boards
Wisconsin School Counselor Association

"This is like no other event I've ever attended. We had the time to reflect, interact, make deeper connections with one another, and to experience and actively engage in the learning. I'll infuse this immediately into our culture in a way that will really help our students."

— Mark Tregaskes

Superintendent, Safford Unified School District, Safford, Arizona

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Pamphlet, "Applying Research and Technology to Learning," 2 pages



Visit the Pathways to School Improvement server for the latest in education research and promising classroom practices.

Topics include:

Assessment
Math, science, and literacy
Early childhood education
Leadership
Safe and drug-free schools
And more

www.ncrel.org/pathways.htm

How to Reach Us

NCREL

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory

1900 Spring Road, Suite 300
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-1480

Phone: 800-356-2735

or 630-571-4700

Fax: 630-571-4716

E-mail: info@ncrel.org

Web site: www.ncrel.org

Information packets on selected topics and research/retrieval services are available from NCREL's Resource Center at no charge.

Applying Research and Technology to Learning



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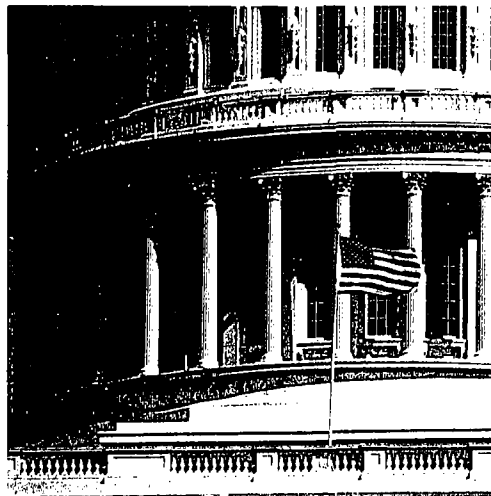
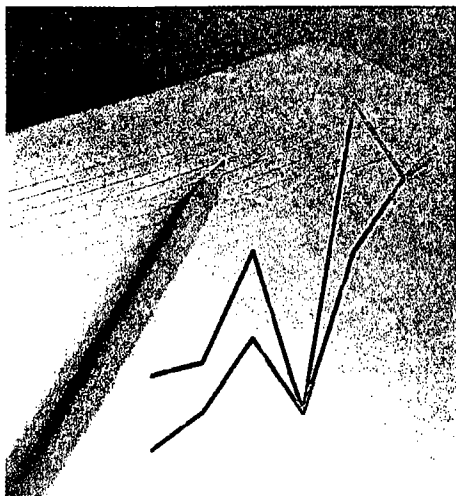
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STATE POLICY ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: *RETHINKING THE LINKAGES TO STUDENT OUTCOMES*

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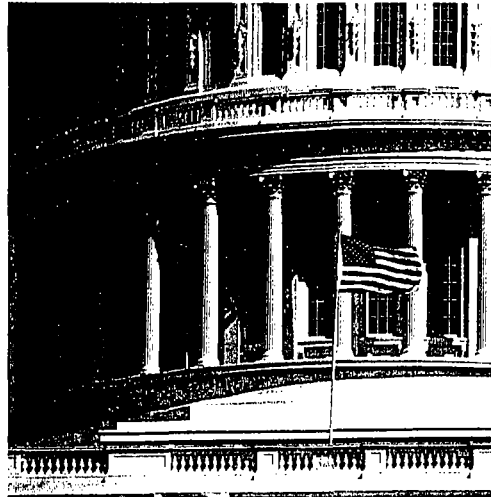
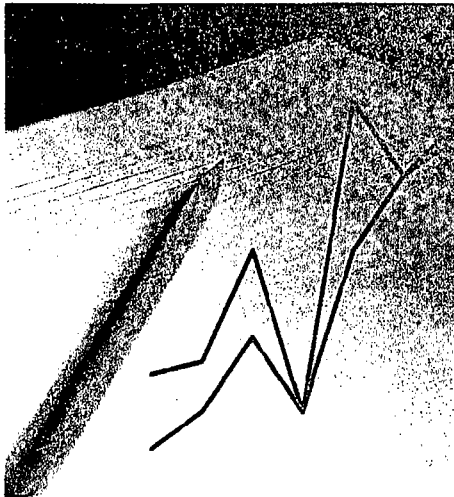
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STATE PROGRAMS FOR FUNDING TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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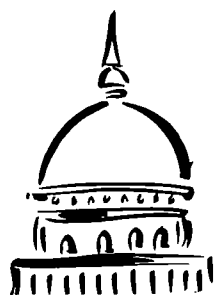
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POLICY ISSUES

Issue 4

February 2000

Although the federal government has funded educational technology at a proportionally higher rate than most school districts would typically expect, state and local governments are still left to shoulder the lion's share of funding.

About This Issue

Financial support for implementing technology in our public schools has come from a wide spectrum of sources. How much we are spending, where the funds come from, and our ability to sustain funding ultimately determine the degree to which students will be participants in an increasingly technology-driven society. This edition of Policy Issues highlights the pros and cons associated with financing technology through typical and uncommon means, drawing attention to initiatives where policymakers might take an active role. Included in this issue:

- *Examples of how states and districts have maximized savings and funded educational technology*
- *The benefits and pitfalls in designing flexible budgets to support technology infrastructures via comprehensive school improvement initiatives*
- *The increasing need for budgeted, ongoing staff development for teachers and administrators integrating technology into their curricula*

Sustaining Educational Technology: Funding Challenges and Opportunities for Policymakers

By Phil Vincent and Rachel Kaberon

Schools that neglect to teach students how to access and use information via technology run the risk of producing socially and economically disenfranchised members of society. Technology opens the doors to information. While there are perhaps a number of circumstances that make it more difficult for one school to reap the benefits of technology over another, funding issues inevitably surface over time and either inhibit or drive change in schools. Although the federal government has funded educational technology at a proportionally higher rate than most school districts would typically expect, state and local governments are still left to shoulder the lion's share of funding. In essence, the responsibility for financing technology in schools has always belonged and will continue to belong to individual school districts.

On average, states and local sources cover close to 85 percent of the total investment for creating a new technology infrastructure for schools.¹

Realistically, one can point to a number of educational initiatives that are predominantly supported by state and local sources. While educational technology certainly isn't the first or last expenditure local sources will have to fund, it is one of the more enigmatic. Given the combination of major equipment purchases, the hiring of specialized staff, and the ongoing training of existing staff, technology funding holds a unique distinction. "It is neither a labor expense nor a capital expense nor a recurring material expense, but rather a hybrid."²

Inside This Issue

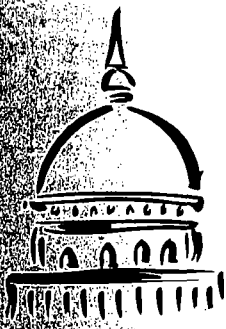
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Policy LINCletter

Fall 1999

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A Budget Surplus— But Not for Education?

By Richard Hershman

Today, an unlikely combination exists that has the potential to positively affect school change: surplus federal money and public backing to increase education spending. According to public opinion polls, most people see investing in education as a high priority. Given the above, it seems logical to expect that the United States Congress and the President would significantly increase federal investment in education. However, in this new era of federal surpluses, both Congress and the White House are planning to freeze most education funding at the current year's level. As FY1999 came to a close in September, Congress had yet to pass an appropriations bill funding the Department of Education and other education programs.

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See **Legislative Watch** ► page 2.